

A new species of *Vitex* from South America

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✓ *Vitex Brittoniana* Moldenke, sp. nov. Arbor excelsa; an-
notinis et hornotinis minute puberulentibus vel glabris; foliis
5-foliolatis (interdum 3-foliolatis); petiolis dense vel minute
puberulentibus vel strigillosis, supra planatis, ad apicem valde
ampliatis et claviformibus; petiolulis tantum 3–15 mm. longis,
supra plerumque valde sulcatis, a pulvinis satis magnis circu-
laribus vel ellipticis emergentibus; laminis utrinque nitidis
ellipticis, inter se inaequalibus, ad apicem et basin acutis vel
breviter acuminatis, integerrimis, supra glabris, subtus praeter
costam et venas secundarias minutissime puberulentes glabratis;
inflorescentiis paniculatis.

Tree to 20 m. tall; branches and branchlets stout, more or
less tetragonal, medullose, brownish, very minutely puberulent
or glabrous, marked with many linear-elongate lenticels; inter-
nodes 1–5 cm. long; leaves decussate-opposite, 5-foliolate or
occasionally 3-foliolate; petioles slender or stout, 3–11 cm. long,
densely or minutely puberulent or strigillose, decidedly flat-
tened on the upper surface, with minutely projecting margins,
conspicuously ampliate at the apex and more or less club-
shaped; petiolules slender, 3–15 mm. long, the terminal one
usually by several mm. the longest, minutely puberulent or
strigillose, usually deeply sulcate above, issuing from compara-
tively large circular or elliptic cushions whose margins project
around the base of the petiolules; leaflets firmly membranous,
dark green and nitidous on both surfaces, elliptic (or occasion-
ally obovate), unequal in size, the terminal one 8.5–18 cm. long
and 3.5–8 cm. wide, acute or short-acuminate at apex (occasion-
ally rounded and subretuse), entire, acute or short-acuminate
at base, perfectly glabrous above, glabrous beneath except for
the very minutely or obsoletely puberulent midrib and sec-
ondaries; midrib slightly impressed above, prominent beneath;
secondaries slender, 9–14 on each side, rather close together,
ascending, often only slightly arcuate, slightly impressed above,
prominent and conspicuously anastomosing near the margins
beneath; veinlet reticulation prominulent on both surfaces; the
two lateral leaflets slightly or noticeably smaller; the two basal
leaflets usually very conspicuously smaller, sometimes quite

rounded at both ends; inflorescence paniculate; panicles simple, axillary, solitary, opposite, 2-4 at the termination of each branchlet, 7-22 cm. long, narrow, usually 3-5 cm. wide, many-flowered; peduncles slender, 3-8 cm. long, very minutely puberulent or glabrous; pedicels slender, about 1 mm. long, puberulent; bractlets numerous, linear or linear-lanceolate, 1-4 mm. long, 1-1.7 mm. wide or less; calyx campanulate, about 2.6 mm. long and wide, lightly pubescent, margin 5-lobed, slightly 2-lipped, the lobes ovate-triangular, about 0.7 mm. long and 1 mm. wide at the base, acute; corolla purple, bilabiate, its tube about 5.2 mm. long, ampliate above, densely long-pilose at the mouth; superior lip 2-lobed, its lobes irregularly rotund or oblong, about 3.6 mm. long and wide, more or less rounded at apex; inferior lip 3-lobed, the lateral lobes broadly oblong, about 4.1 mm. long and 3.6 mm. wide, irregularly rounded, the central lobe greatly enlarged, clawed with a more or less rotund blade, the claw about 1.5 mm. long and 3.3 mm. wide, the blade about 5.2 mm. long and 7.8 mm. wide, its margin irregular; stamens 4, didynamous, inserted about 3.6 mm. above the base of the corolla-tube, exerted; filaments filiform, about 4.6 and 6.8 mm. long, densely pilose throughout; anther-sacs attached only at apex, widely diverging, about 0.7 mm. long and 0.3 mm. wide; pistil exerted, surpassing the stamens; style capillary, about 8.3 mm. long, glabrous; stigma bifid, its branches short, about 0.4 mm. long, acute; ovary globose, about 1 mm. long and wide, densely pubescent, 4-celled, 4-ovuled; fruiting-calyx indurated, coriaceous, campanulate, about 2 mm. long and 5 mm. wide, glabrate, its margin irregularly lobed; fruit drupaceous, obovoid-subglobose, about 10 mm. long and wide, glabrous, fleshy, 4-celled, much wrinkled in drying.

Type collected by George Samuel Jenman (*No. 6921*) at Berbice, British Guiana, in January, 1896, and deposited in the herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden. The species is closely related to the Jamaican *Vitex umbrosa* Sw., which is endemic to that island. Indeed, it has hitherto been invariably confused with this species. The fact that the South American specimens, uniformly labeled "*Vitex umbrosa* Sw." in all herbaria and even cited thus by Schauer, are not conspecific with the Jamaican plant, was first discovered by Dr. Nathaniel Lord

Britton, in whose honor the new species is therefore very appropriately named. *V. umbrosa* differs from our species in having uniformly much more elongate petiolules, in its leaflet blades being much less nitidous (especially beneath), its petioles being not enlarged nor club-shaped at their apex, and especially in its petiolules not emerging from enlarged cushions at their base and in its very shortly or obsolete toothed calyx. *V. Brittoniana* is known also from Venezuela, French Guiana, Colombia, and Curacao.

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